





Loony in love

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Chapter 1

Pearl Bunesca grumbles as she dresses up for the inspection. "Argh! I bloody hate inspecting stuff! I mean, can you imagine having to inspect all these grubby, boring places an' none of 'em come close to hygienic or safe! I don't wanna shut any of the restaurants or offices or hospitals down, but they make it so hard! Oh —right—I just realized, no-one cares! " the young inspector exclaims, realizing that she's talking to herself in her empty apartment. "St. Jude's. Gosh! I do not wanna close down a loony bin! " she mutters, grunting as she finally pulls up her stockings. She puts on her coat & joins her fellow inspector, Georgie outside, before they both leave for the asylum. "This must be it. " Pearl guesses, as they step outta the car. "Tsk-tsk... off to a bad start, eh? " Georgie asks, looking on as Pearl runs her gloved fingers over the porch railings, staining the glove with dust. "Mmhmm." she nods in reply, whipping off the gloves & shoving them into her handbag. She whips out a clipboard from her bag, before jotting down in it, nodding her head slowly as she writes. "Let's check it out inside." she decides, as Georgie prepares to knock. "Wait! Who's that?! " Pearl cries out in surprise, staring at a window on the side of the building. Her stare is a mixture of awe & disbelief, as she spots a long-haired, sturdy, slightly chubby man clamber outta it! A younger man wearing a rainbow-colored tee appears at the window, yelling a warning out at him, before glancing at her & grinning. She's interrupted by the friendly voice of a nurse who opens the door & invites them in.

Chapter **2**

Cast members

David Tennant as Campbell Bain

Jenna Coleman as Pearl Bunesca

Catherine Tate as Georgie

& the rest of the cast of Takin' Over The Asylum.

Chapter 3

The nurse shows them around, as they go about inspecting every room in the building. "You let 'em walk about the place freely & let 'em watch telly? Wow!" an impressed Pearl exclaims in wonder. "It's better than that other loony bin we inspected where the patients were locked up in cages!" she whispers to Georgie, who nods in agreement. "An' what's this?" Pearl asks the nurse, peeking into the recording studio. "'Ello!" a voice from behind her greets, startling her! "You must be the—whatcha call it—inspector, right?" the boy with the loopy grin asks. "Yes. & you are?" she replies. "The name's Bain. Campbell Bain. What's yours?" he asks, eagerly. "Pearl Bunesca," she replies, confused by his eagerness to meet her. Most of the people she dealt with were mighty afraid of her. "Pearl... Pearl... Pearly shells from the ocean!" he rolls her name around for awhile, before breaking into a song, singing aloud in his deep, Scottish accent. Pearl blushes. Georgie chuckles. Fergus, who's just returned from another one of his outings joins in, singing along wildly with Campbell! "Stop it! Wait a minute—aren't you the fellow who was climbing outta the window when I arrived?" she asks, staring at Fergus with her wide eyes. "C'mon! I'll show you around! I'm gonna begin my show anyway." Campbell interrupts, excitedly tugging at her hand & pulling her into the studio. "You've your own radio show?" she asks, in surprise. "Aye! Thanks to Eddie here." he replies, introducing her to Eddie McKenna. "You know, we could do an interview for my show. What d'you think o' it, Eddie?" he asks her, before turning to Eddie for approval. "Do what you want, Campbell. It's your show!" he replies, relaxing in his chair. "It's settled then, eh? Ya know, you're pretty young to be an inspector." a curious Campbell observes. "Yea. She's celebrating her twenty-sixth b'day on the fourteenth." Georgie interrupts. "The fourteenth?! I'm gonna be twenty on the fourteenth! We're b'day buddies!" he reveals, even more excitedly. "B'day buddies? What's that?" a confused Pearl enquires. "He said we were b'day buddies too the other day." Eddie remembers. "Oh! D'you share the same birth date with him as well?" she asks, in surprise. "Nope! But, he asked me if I would be willing to change my birth date, so that we could be b'day buddies!" he replies, rolling his eyes, before settling back into his comfy chair. "That's

Campbell for you! " Fergus exclaims, with a chuckle. "I'm still not clear on why you were climbing out that window." Pearl reminds. "He's always comin' up with escape routines. That's Fergus for you! " Campbell replies on his behalf. "We've gotta do somethin' about that. Can't have patients escapin'! I'll be back tomorrow to discuss it." she declares in a serious tone. "What about the interview? " a disappointed Campbell asks. "Perhaps, I'll see you tomorrow,hmm? " she promises, with a smile. "Perfect! I'll be waiting! " a jumpy Campbell exclaims, pushing his hair back with one hand & flashing his toothy grin."I haven't seen you smile like that since Harry... " Georgie remarks on the car ride home, before she's interrupted by Pearl. "He's a sweet kid, isn't he? " she asks. "Who? Campbell? He's no kid! I mean, you're both in your twenties. Both single... ." a concerned Georgie begins. "I know where you're going with this. What I meant was, he acts like such a lively kid, eh? " Pearl interrupts her yet again, before turning her face to the window & thinking about adorable Campbell's childish, wild antics.

Chapter 4

Pearl scrunches her face up at her timetable, attempting to figure out how to fit Campbell's interview into her tight schedule. She finally makes the time, when Georgie impatiently honks, signaling the start of a frantic day. After surviving a trip to a highly dangerous (probably, radioactive) factory & safely emerging outta rodent-infested restaurants, the brave duo make their way to St. Jude's at the end of the day. Pearl stops at a shop window to fix her makeup & hair. "You do know it's a radio show an' no-one's gonna see ya, right? " Georgie reminds, waiting for her impatiently. Pearl ignores her & continues with her routine of tying up & loosening her hair, adjusting her barrette, touching up her makeup & nodding her head unsatisfactorily at each look! Meanwhile, Campbell spots 'em from his window & waves at Georgie, calling out - "What's takin u 2 so long? " "Preening! " Georgie mouths in response, as a Pearl (who usually has a devil-may-care attitude about her look!) busily preens & frowns. Finally, she's done & joins Georgie at the unopened door. A nurse rushes over to open it on hearing a knock, but an ecstatic Campbell beats her to it! "'Ello! " he greets. Pearl jumps up, taken aback by his loud greeting, while an unaffected Georgie greets back with a polite hullo. "She's rather jumpy today, eh? " he whispers to Georgie, who agrees. "Just nervous about the interview, that's all." an embarrassed Pearl justifies. Suddenly, Georgie's cell phone rings. "Gotta take this. It's Ronnie's school." she excuses herself , before answering it. "You 2 go on without me. Ronnie's fallen ill an' I've gotta go pick him up." she reveals, after she's done talking on the phone. "Call me when you're done, kay? " she asks Pearl, before hurrying back to the car. "C'mon in, then! I won't bite! " Campbell assures, tugging at the sleeve of her sweatshirt. "What about him? Will he bite? " she asks hesitantly, staring at Fergus ,who's showed up at the doorway & is glaring at her. "Fergus, make way! We've got an interview to do, ya know! " Campbell scolds, pushing him aside. Pearl follows him as he happily leads her to the recording studio.

Chapter 5

"This is Campbell Bain's Looney Tunes show an' today we've a special guest with us here at St. Jude's- the loony capital o' Scotland! Why dontcha introduce yourself to our listeners?" Campbell asks, beginning the show. "Uhm... I... I'm... uh... Pearl Bunesca." a usually confident Pearl introduces herself, nervously. "Temporarily forgot your name there, didntcha, Pearl? " Campbell jokes. "Isn't that a lovely voice, folks? Is that a British accent I detect, Pearl? " he asks, curiously. "Yea. I moved here from London after my marriage."she reveals (at which point, all the patients & nurses who've gathered around the radio to listen in, begin to ooh & aah!) "You're married? " he asks, dejectedly. "Was married. Though I don't like talking about it much." she replies, with a tinge of sadness in her voice. "Oh! Let's move on then! " he mutters. "Lemme tell ya a little somethin more about her, folks! An' a warning to all those shopkeepers out there who aren't keeping their shops top-notch... Pearl's a health an' safety inspector & a pretty good one too! Emphasis on **pretty!** " he continues flirtatiously, in an attempt to lighten her up. "So, Pearl, you've gotta have a favorite warning that you like to brandish every now an' then, right?" he begins to ask, peeking at his list of ridiculous questions. "Not really... " she replies. "Shy to mention it? " he prods, with a mischievous grin. "Fine, I'll tell ya. It's,uhh.... Scrub up—or I'll shut you down!" she replies in a mock stern voice, playing along. "Ooh, feisty! So, how many places have you shut down, Pearl? " he asks, widening his eyes at her response. "I don't wanna... " she begins to reply. "Don't wanna talk about it? Is it 'coz you're not allowed to discuss it? " he interrupts. "Actually, I was gonna say, I don't wanna brag about it! I've shut down tons of places! " she replies, with a mischievous grin of her own! "Wow! She's out for blood, folks! An' have you faced resistance, perhaps gotten any hate mail?" he enquires, in a sorta serious tone. "Yea, tons! But, it's part an' parcel of the job, right? " she replies, bravely. "Heard that, folks? So, all the folks out there who're preparing to send her hate mail with the choicest insults can just shove it! " he threatens, jokingly. "That's all for today, 'coz that's all the ridiculous questions I could come up with ,coz my friend Fergus was complaining all day yesterday while I was trying to come up with questions! You

folks know him, right? He's the bloke who was spotted paragliding o'er Glasgow a couple o' days ago! Anyways, my friend Eddie, who's almost close to insanity, is gonna be takin song requests later. So, stay tuned! This is Campbell Bain looney-tuning out! " a chatty Campbell explains, before finally wrapping up the show.

Chapter 6

Pearl wakes up to the constant ringing of her telephone. "Why... at midnight... of all the bloody hours?! " she mutters angrily, her voice muffled by her pillow. She flips onto her back, before sitting up & answering the call. "'Ello! Sorry I woke ya up! " a familiar, jovial voice yells from the other end. "Campbell? How'd you get my number an' why're you calling me at such an ungodly hour? " a suspicious Pearl asks. "Even lunatics know what a phone book is, genius! Just wanted to wish ya. Happy Birthday!" he greets. "Oh! Is it the fourteenth already? Have a gr8 twentieth, b'day boy! " she greets back. "Ooh, almost forgot! I wanted to ask you out for coffee when ya drop by tomorrow. How about it? " he asks, putting on his most charming voice. "Tomorrow? Why would I drop by tomorrow?" she asks, trying hard to remember whether she'd scheduled a visit to St. Jude's for the next day. She hadn't. Then, why in the world would I drop by? she begins to wonder, before Campbell's loud voice clears up her confusion. "Ya left your file here. I assume you'll be back to pick it up? " he assumes, anxiously. "Oh, yea... .I was gonna talk to the staff about Safety Measures after our interview , but I guess it'll have to wait till tomorrow, since all my matter's in that file, Campbell." she explains, upset that she'll have to change her entire schedule now. "How about that coffee after you're done talkin about these Safety Treasures then? " an eager Campbell asks, even more anxiously. "It's Safety Measures, Campbell. An' I dunno... it just doesn't seem right... " she replies, hesitantly. "What's not right about 2 friends sharing a cup o' horrible, bitter ,teeth-darkening stuff? " he asks, justifying his request. "Ok, if you insist... .Yea, sure!" she replies, after thinking for awhile. "See ya tomorrow, then! " he cheerfully exclaims. "Campbell, wait! I don't want you sharing this number with anyone else, kay? Or else, all the other loonies—er, I mean,uh... patients are gonna call over! An' you'll only call me in case of a real emergency, kay? " she warns. "Anything for my coffee-buddy! " he promises. "Sleep tight, Campbell." she whispers with a smile, before hanging up & flipping onto her stomach again, groaning as her head hits her soft pillow. Soon, she's sound asleep & dreaming about... nope,not about Campbell, but about her talk the next day!

Chapter 7

"Pearl Chloe Bunesca, you can do this! You can talk 'em into implementing the safety measures you came up with. Besides, you have the right to shut 'em down if they don't! " a determined Pearl gives herself an early morning pep talk in front of her mirror, as is her routine before leaving for a talk. "Besides, think o' the piping hot coffee you'll have with your piping hot boyfriend later! Emphasis on boy!" Georgie teases, sneaking up behind her. "He's not my boyfriend! Ugh! I should've never told you about our plan to have coffee as friends! Nothing more, kay? Just friends!" she retorts, rolling her eyes. As Pearl rambles on & on about window grills & higher walls at the asylum, she finds herself feeling sleepy due to the lack of caffeine. She skipped her morning coffee in favour of Campbell's promise of coffee. She lets out a yawn. Suddenly, she sees a familiar face pressed against the glass door. She muffles a laugh at Campbell's funny faces. She excuses herself & rushes out into the hall. "Campbell, what're you doing out here? " she asks. "Rescuing you from Fergus' wrath, of course! He's plannin a protest, ya know! Him an' another wannabe escapee are gonna storm into that room with placards any minute now an' trash it! I heard 'im plottin' last night." he reveals. "That bad, huh?" she asks, widening her eyes. "Mmh! An' also, I saw ya dozin' off, so I thought you might need that hit o' coffee now more than ever! " he continues, with a grin. "To the cafeteria then? " she asks, grinning back, before linking their arms together. "Allonsy!" he exclaims, in his excitement. "What does that mean? " a confused Pearl asks, not having learnt French. "I dunno! Just some funny word I found in some book an' I liked the sound o' it! " he replies, with a chuckle. Suddenly, they hear angry protests from behind them & make a run for it!

Chapter 8

"Phew! That was a close call! " a panting Pearl heaves a sigh of relief, as she sits across Campbell in the cafeteria with a steaming hot cup of coffee. "Careful, Campbell! It's hot! " she warns. But, she's too late! He's already burnt his tongue! "That's bitter! Why didn'tcha warn me earlier?! " he asks, spitting it out. "It's coffee, Campbell. What did you expect? " she replies, blowing at her coffee to cool it. "Sorry, I haven't drunk any before!" he confesses. "That's why I've still got pearly, white teeth! " he boasts, displaying his toothy grin. "You're silly, Campbell Bain! " she chuckles, handing him a napkin to wipe his frothy nose. "If you don't want it, just say so, Campbell. More for me! " she exclaims excitedly, pulling his cup closer to herself. Campbell satisfies himself with a hot cocoa. "I can't start my day without my coffee, ya know, Campbell? " she confesses, sipping on her coffee, as a smile spreads across her face. "But... haven't you already started your day? " a confused Campbell asks. "Now I have! " she replies, licking her lips. "So... you were married? What happened?" he asks, curiously. "I told you, I don't wanna talk about it." she replies, through gritted teeth. "Just curious." he whispers. "Don't be." she pleads. "You call this wooing? Ya'll need to do much more if you love her, mate ,or you can quit pursuing her! " Fergus interrupts, finally catching up with them. "You... love me? " she asks, in disbelief. "Since I first saw you. So, d'you... ? " he begins to ask anxiously, only to be interrupted by her. "No! I don't love you an' you can quit wooing me, 'coz I'm not interested!" she yells angrily, taking everyone in the cafeteria by surprise! "I've had it with men swooning over me! I thought this was just a friendly gesture... .an' to hear about it from Fergus of all people?! There's no chance of me ever falling for you, Campbell! " she continues to yell, further breaking his heart. "Is it coz... I'm a loony? " he asks, his eyes tearing up. She nods her head & silently folds up the sleeve of her sweatshirt... revealing a scar that stretches from her elbow to her wrist. "This is what a broken beer bottle can do to you." she whispers, her angry eyes filling up with tears. "He was abusive, even when he wasn't drunk! I've been afraid to love, since I divorced Harry! " she confesses, glaring at Campbell for opening up an old wound. She turns away & heads for the door, wiping away her tears, leaving behind a shocked

Campbell. She runs into a smiling nurse who hands her an invite. It reads: Campbell's goin' away party. St. Jude's asylum, Sat., nine-thirty p.m. "Guess he didn't tell ya? He's bein discharged, though I don't think his friend Fergus is goin anywhere, based on his behavior after your talk today! Trashing the room like tha..." she begins to explain, before realising that Pearl's already left the building. Later, Georgie drives Pearl to her therapist. "How'd it go?" Georgie enquires after the session. "Are you free Saturday night? I need to apologize to Campbell." she replies, feeling a bit calmer now.

Chapter 9

The cafeteria's been converted into a makeshift party hall for the occasion. The guests (mostly the staff & patients) happily make their way across the makeshift dance floor, as Campbell (who decided to personally deejay the party) sulkily plays another record. "Too bad she couldn't make it, eh?" Fergus remarks with his mouth full, sitting beside him & wolfing down a hotdog. "Yea." the usually cheerful boy sulks. "Crisp? " Fergus offers, pushing a plate stacked with snacks towards him. "No, thanks." he declines, pushing it away & frowning at the jovial guests on the dance floor. Suddenly, his face lights up, as he spots a familiar face at the doorway, smiling at him. "She's here, Fergus! She made it!" he exclaims, jumping up. Now, it's Fergus' turn to frown (he still holds a grudge against her!)! He pushes through the dancing crowd to greet her. His grin turns into a frown, as he turns his attention towards her clothes. "Seriously? That's what you decided to wear?! A black an' blue dress? Rather depressing colours, dontcha think? " he asks, frowning at her dress. "What d'you know about colours, Mr. Golden Bowtie?! " she retorts, insulted by his comment. "I was joshing, silly goose! " he jokes, before breaking into a grin & surprising her with a bone-crushing hug! "I'm so glad to see you, ya know that? " he whispers, resting his chin on her shoulder. "I know. Campbell, we need to talk." she replies, pulling back & placing her palm on his cheek. "I wanna apologize for how I reacted that day. I was a mess." she apologises, as they sit in a corner of the cafeteria to talk. "Maybe the coffee messed up yer brain! I heard it does that to some folks! " he guesses. She chuckles. "No, it wasn't the coffee, Campbell. It was the lack of shrink visits. I thought I didn't need therapy, but I guess I was wrong. Actually, it was my therapist who suggested that I attend this party. Said I needed to be around a person who loved an' adored me an' made me laugh, made me feel like a new person... .an' that person's you, Campbell Bain." Pearl blushes as she explains, holding his hand tightly in hers. "Shrinks. They're a boon ,aren't they? An' here I was thinkin that they were just a bunch o' loons with fancy degrees! " he exclaims ,mockingly. "Aren't you gonna deejay anymore?" she asks. "Nah, Eddie's got it covered! " he replies, waving at Eddie who's taken over for him. "Besides, I was waitin for a dance partner... .an' now, she's here! " he reveals, as

he pulls her to her feet & closer towards him. "You wanna dance with me, even after I broke your heart? " a puzzled Pearl asks. "You mended it when you walked in here. Besides, mental breakdowns come an' go! But, ya don't get to dance with a handsome loon often! " he jokes, charmingly wrapping his arms around her waist. Eddie plays Love will keep us alive, as if reading Campbell's mind! Pearl smiles as she stands on his shoes, so that her arms can reach up & comfortably wrap themselves around his neck. As they slow-dance together, Pearl can't help but feel more safe in Campbell's arms than she ever did in Harry's arms.

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Chapter

"G'night, Pearl." Georgie exclaims with a yawn, as she drops her friend at her apartment, at the end of a long day. "Yea... .who's callin now? Gosh! I hope it's not another angry restaurateur! " she mutters, as her cellphone rings. "Campbell? What's happened? " she asks, answering it. "My dad sorta kicked me out. We haven't been on good terms after our lil spat the last time he visited me at the asylum! I just needed a place to stay an' yours is the only number I know." he replied, calling from a phone booth outside his dad's house. "Have you thought about checkin into a hotel? " she asks. "Don't have any money on me." a helpless Campbell replies, glumly twisting the phone cord in his hand. "Fine. We're comin over. Where're you? " she asks. He gives her the address, before she motions to Georgie to drive. "My very own taxi service! " an ecstatic Campbell jokes, as the girls arrive to pick him up. "This is wondrous! Us, livin together!" he exclaims loudly, as they arrive at Pearl's place. "Ssh! You're only staying here till you find a place of your own, kay? Now, grab your luggage an' follow me." she orders, shushing him with a finger across his lips. "Here. Hold my guitar case." he requests. "Didn't know you played." she mutters, unlocking the door before accepting the case from him. "I should've stayed at the asylum!" he exclaims, unimpressed by the dark apartment. "Shut up an' put your bags away in the closet,Campbell." she orders, rolling her eyes, before gesturing to the closet in a corner of the living room (which's just a dull,carpeted room with a telly & a few chairs around it). "Where's the couch? Where am I gonna sleep?" he asks, looking around the room. "Don't have one. You could share the bed with me tonight, but keep your hands to yourself, kay? I've got new bedclothes in the storeroom over there. Go get em, would you?" she orders. "Sure." he replies, dropping his bags on the floor, not bothering to put em away into the closet , before hurrying over to the tiny storeroom. She sighs, as she drags his luggage into the closet.

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Chapter

"Dinner's ready, Campbell! " Pearl announces, as Campbell finishes making the bed. "Instant noodles?! The cafeteria served better food than this! " he complains. "Well, I'm outta groceries... unless, you wanna hit the shops at ten p.m." she retorts, pushing the cup of noodles towards him while stirring her noodles. "So, why'd your dad kick you out? What was that spat about? " she asks, slurping a noodle. "Well, he asked me what I planned to do once I got outta St. Jude's an' I said, I planned on losin' my virginity! Although, I think he may have been askin me if I planned on gettin a job." he replies, playing around with his noodles. "O—k... .I've lost my appetite!" she mutters in disgust, putting the rest of the noodles in the fridge for later. "Can't sleep? " she asks him later, as they lie in bed beside each other, staring up at the ceiling. "Yea, I miss my ol room at St. Jude's. How about you? Why're you still awake? " he replies, with a pout. "It's been a long time since I've had someone in bed beside me. I've always slept soundly on my own." she confesses. "Why don't you have a couch? " he asks, trying to change the subject. "Harry burnt it down after one of our nasty fights! " she replies, hurt at the memory. "Is that why you dumped him? " Campbell asks, turning towards her. "No. That was after... he killed our baby!" she replies, a tear rolling down her cheek.

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Chapter

"We were fighting as usual. He'd returned home, drunk an' cussing as usual. I thought now that I was pregnant, he wouldn't act so violently... but, I was wrong! He almost killed me that night, if I hadn't screamed loud enough to wake our neighbors! I learnt later at the hospital, that I'd lost my baby." she recounts, trying to hide the tears. "I'm here for you." he consoles, reaching for her hand. "I know. That's why I've decided to give this relationship thing some thought." she declares, gazing into his loving, puppy eyes. "You have? " he asks, feeling his heart beat faster. "Mmhm! My therapist, Dr. Pink decided that it'd be better to not keep my feelings for you bottled in." she replies, with a smile. "Your therapist's name's Dr. Pink?" he asks, veering off topic. "Danica Pink. Danny , for short." she replies. "The point is, I love you, Campbell Bain! " she proclaims, squeezing his hand. He moves closer to her, feeling his heart beat faster & faster, as her lips meet & mingle with his lips. She smiles, running her fingers through an asleep Campbell's messy hair the next morn. He wakes up, slowly opening his eyes at her touch & flashes his toothy grin at her. "Thank God I lost my virginity, eh? " he asks, drowsily. "Oh, Campbell! " she blushes, before pecking him lightly on his forehead, making him blush at the touch of her soft lips!

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Chapter

Their intimate moment's interrupted by a familiar honk. Campbell's playful eyes follow her around the room, as she scrambles about hurriedly to find something to wear. She waves at Georgie from the window, gesturing to her to wait, before turning towards Campbell. "You sure you're gonna be alright? Staying here alone? " a concerned Pearl asks. "Yup! I was thinkin o' givin this place a makeover, anyway! " he replies, boastfully. "I think I spotted some ol' wallpaper in that storeroom yesterday." he continues. "Sounds like you've figured everything out! " she exclaims teasingly, before leaning in to kiss him goodbye. Campbell doesn't want their passionate kiss to end, but Pearl pulls back, gesturing to her wristwatch. "I think there's instant coffee in the kitchen cabinet an' leftovers in the fridge. Just call me if you need anything, kay? " she instructs, hurrying out. "Wild night? " Georgie assumes, eyeing Pearl suspiciously, as she climbs into the car. "How did you know that... .? " Pearl begins to ask, staring at her in disbelief. "I knew it! I leave you two alone for one night an' you go ahead an' jump into bed with him?! " she asks, shocked that her assumption turned out to be true! "How'd you know that Campbell an' I slept together? " Pearl whispers. "You're happier than usual. Also, you've got a hickey on your neck." Georgie explains. Pearl blushes & quickly covers her neck. "I, uh... I dunno what's wrong with me, Georgie. It's like I've fallen head over heels in love with him! " she confesses. "Wow! I've never heard you utter that phrase, ever!" Georgie teases. "D'you think I should take this slow though? I mean, I hope I'm not bouncing back too soon! " Pearl asks her, worryingly. "I'm just glad you're bouncing back, love! I was worried that you'd be mopingly drowning your sorrows in ice -cream forever! " Georgie replies, heaving a sigh of relief. Pearl smiles at her response.

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Chapter

"Thank God, you didn't burn the place down, Campbell! " Pearl jokes, as he answers the door. "C'mon in, you! " he exclaims with a grin, pulling her in. "I wanna show you the changes I made in here while you were out." he announces, ecstatically. "Gimme some sugar first!" she requests, teasingly. He takes her by surprise as he lifts her up, holding her by the waist! "I meant, gimme a kiss, silly! " she chuckles, brushing his unruly hair aside with her fingers, so that it doesn't cover his eyes. "I knew that. Just wanted to do this! " he exclaims, twirling her around. She cups his face in her hands as soon as he stops twirling her & plants a kiss on the corner of his mouth. "Ok, lemme down, champ! I wanna see these changes that you've made! " she declares, as he lowers her to the floor. "Not much of an improvement. I mean, it's still dark an' dull in here, though a lot neater." she mutters, feeling unimpressed. "Aye! That's 'coz this is you! " he explains. "What does that mean... This is me?" a confused Pearl demands an explanation. "This is who you are. Rather dull an' cheerless... " he begins. "That's rather insulting, Campbell." she complains, feeling offended by his idea of her. "Ya didn't lemme finish! " he continues, tugging her along with him to the bedroom. She stares in wonder at the colour-splashed ceiling an' multicolored wallpaper "An' this is me! See? It's based on our personalities! " he exclaims, excitedly. "You... ." he exclaims, hopping back into the dull living room, before hopping back into the bedroom & exclaiming - "Me! " She tries to match up to his enthusiasm by hopping along! "An' together, it's us! " he exclaims, pulling aside the drapes in the living room, letting in the sunlight... revealing colourful caricatures of them both in a dark corner of the room! "Your neighbor, Mr. Hooper's a brilliant artist! " he whispers into her ear, as she stares, speechless by the sight! "What're you transforming my apartment into the Sistine chapel? Where'd you get all this paint from? " a surprised Pearl enquires. "Found some ol paint cans in the storeroom." he replies. "Of course! I'd bought em to paint the baby's nursery... ." she remembers, choking up. She slumps onto a chair, tears filling her eyes. "Just think o' it this way... .Every time you step into the bedroom , you'll see these colours an' remember your baby an' it'll help keep the memories alive. It doesn't matter if ya never got to paint the nursery,

'coz now we used up that paint for somethin better. We used it to create our own wonderful, colourful memories to cancel out the dark, hurtful memories! " the lanky, cheerful boy explains, kneeling beside her & clasping her hand in his to comfort her. He helps her to her feet & hugs her tightly, as she buries her face into his chest & sobs. "Shhh... just let it out... " he comforts her, running his fingers through her hair. "Campbell? " she whispers, looking up at him with her damp eyes. "Hmm? " he leans in to listen to her. "I'm hungry. Is there any food left in the fridge? " she whispers into his ear. "I thought you'd never ask! How about we hit the shops?" he asks. "I dunno, Campbell. Usually, Georgie buys all my groceries for me. I've never set foot in a grocery store to buy stuff before... although, I've shut one down once! " she reveals, nervously. "How come? I mean, I've never been to one 'coz I've been stuck in a loony bin for so long! What's your excuse? " he asks, in disbelief. She shrugs her shoulders. "C'mon, you! It's time to live a little! " he exclaims, hurrying out the door. She follows him, managing to keep up with his quick, energetic pace.

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Chapter

They return home with their arms full of paper bags filled with groceries. "That was an eye-opening trip! I didn't know there were so many different types o' mushrooms, until now! " a fascinated Campbell exclaims, as Pearl struggles to unlock the door. "Yea, me neither. I don't think we can afford anymore though. Most of the stuff in that place's rather expensive an' I've almost run outta money. Besides, I can't be the sole earner in this relationship, Campbell." she explains, finally unlocking it. "Uh-huh." he agrees with her. "Campbell, what I mean to say is that you need to get a job." she explains firmly, before setting the bags down on the table. "D'you think Eddie might help me find one? I s'posse he'll know some people in broadcasting." Campbell suggests. "Yea. Maybe, we'll talk to him tomorrow then." she agrees. So , the next day, they visit St. Jude's. Everyone stops, murmurs & stares at Campbell as he struts about the halls ,like he owns the place! "Fergus, ol boy! How're you?! " he greets, spotting his pal outside the recording studio. "So, I heard you're living with the enemy? " Fergus growls, staring accusingly at him & grudgingly at Pearl! "That's not all we're doin! " he whispers, with a mischievous wink! Pearl blushes & nudges him. "You've literally been sleeping with the enemy too?! For shame, Campbell! " he mutters in disgust. Pearl rolls her eyes. Fortunately, Eddie arrives to save em from Fergus' ridicules & invites them into the studio, with a smile.

16

Chapter

"So, how's the outside world treatin ya, Campbell? " Eddie enquires. "It's been bloody brilliant, Eddie! D'you know what we did today? We rode in shopping trolleys across the aisles at the grocery store." Campbell replies, excitedly. "Yea... till the stern shopkeeper scolded us! " Pearl continues, feeling a bit embarrassed by it. "Ooh! An' we had a food fight during dinner!" he recounts, even more excitedly. "I'd only seen them on the telly, until last night! We tossed tomatoes, mushrooms an' bits of chicken salad at each other! I mean, it was so unhygienic, so unsafe, yet... so much fun! " Pearl exclaims, unable to contain her excitement! "Sounds like you kids had a lotta fun! So, what brings you here, Campbell? " Eddie asks, nodding his head in amusement at their antics. "D'you think you can help me find a job? " Campbell requests. In response, Eddie whips out an album cover from his carefully arranged shelf & removes a piece of paper which he'd hidden in it. "A few weeks ago, an RJ from BBC radio Scotland called me, sayin that she was a fan o' your show an' was interested in meetin ya. I told her that you weren't allowed outta the asylum, so she left her phone number with me. Why dontcha give her a call? Maybe, she might've a job for ya. " Eddie suggests, handing him the piece of paper. Just above the phone number, it reads: Emerald Chapman AKA RJ Chappy. "Cool beans, I just might, Eddie!" Campbell agrees, grinning at Eddie. "Thanks, Mr. McKenna." Pearl thanks. "Uh... Campbell?" Eddie calls out, as they prepare to leave. "D'you think you could come o'er once in a while to do the show? We attempted to continue it with Fergus, but it just wasn't the same without you, ya know? " he requests. "Aye! I'd love to, Eddie! Maybe I'll drop by some time! " Campbell replies enthusiastically, before following Pearl outta the studio.

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Chapter

Author's note

To be continued in the sequel, Broadcasting with Chappy & Campbell. Sneak peek: Campbell Bain befriends the bubbly RJ (& his biggest fan!) at his new workplace, the BBC radio Scotland headquarters. But what happens when his closeness to his young friend stirs up feelings of jealousy in Pearl? Hope y'all enjoyed reading this fanfic an' I hope y'all will enjoy the sequel too. This story has been entered into the Wattys 2016 contest, so if any o' you readers have a wattpad account, do log on and vote :-)



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